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Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."--C.S. Lewis

2-20-82

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The Phoenix Monthly-International

SUCCESS '81
by Susan Calvin (AL-13)

PROLOGUE

What a trip! This had to be the biggest thing to hit the Florida's East Coast since deLeon and his crew came looking for the Fountain of Youth. What was it? It was the Daytona Event -- Success '81 -- sponsored by the Florida Success Chapter of course. It's over now, but it was grand while it lasted. If you missed it you have the sympathy of those who attended. You'll be forgiven this time, but don't miss Success '82 or you'll turn into a pumpkin.

This event started several months ago as the dream of our dear sister Susan A. (FL-1), president of the Success Chapter. Susan founded the Success Chapter and has been a strong motivating force in the Chapter's remarkable success. The Chapter now boasts 22 members, both transvestites and transsexuals, and has been instrumental in providing a source of refuge and mutual support and assistance for the crossgender people from all over the Southwest. The Chapter offers a family type atmosphere which is highly prized by everyone in the Chapter and is what Susan wanted; and the Daytona Event was the climax of Susan's original dream. But, even though the dream has reached fruition, it is by no means over. This was only the beginning; and you can look forward to much bigger and better things from Success in the future.

Preparation for the Daytona Event began about six months ago and included extensive effort on the part of such good people as Susan and Shirley A., Elaine S. and Bobbi and Shannon W. who took time out of their busy schedules to contact motels, business establishments and restaurants. As could be expected, not all contacts were successful, but those that weren't were the exception rather than the rule. The Police Department was contacted and surprisingly was very cooperative and understanding; a credit to their professionalism and individual maturity.

As the time for the Event approached several members of the Chapter headed for Port Richie, where the Chapter is based. I was one of the early arrivals due to an electrolysis appointment which was sched-

uled a couple of days prior to the Event. Cathy G. had traveled to my home (from SC) for a short visit and thus we were able to carpool to Florida to be among the early arrivals. Nadine W. arrived from south Florida the day before the event, thus completing the list of early arrivals. This turned out to be a fortuitous event in that on Wednesday, November 11, the day before the Event was to begin Nadine, Cathy, Susan G. (the daughter of Susan and Shirley A.) and I had the chance to go to a local shopping center and get our ears pierced for a second time. It was a great way to start the trip to Daytona.

Enough about the preliminaries; it's time to get into more detail about the Event. So, the following is a day-to-day synopsis of activities as they occurred (as I saw them). Sit back, clear your minds of all extraneous thoughts, then let your imagination run wild as you read about this wonderful happening.

DAY ONE
11 NOVEMBER, 1981
Wednesday

The trip to Daytona takes you through some of the most beautiful real estate in the U.S. Florida is a clean State with fresh air, good sunshine, a mild climate, pleasant little towns, attractive cities and good roads on which to travel. All of this made the trip to the East Coast of Florida a memorable event in itself. And everywhere there are friendly people. The only thing you need be cautious about are the numerous speed traps. But then, none of us speed, do we?

Arrival at Daytona was under an overcast sky which cleared later in the evening exposing a nearly full moon to provide a very romantic scene on the beach behind our motel. Daytona is a sparkling community along an attractive stretch of clear Atlantic seashore. There's something here for everyone and all of it within a few minutes driving time from any place in town. Our motel was centrally located and on the beach, which was a big plus.

Not all of the attendees arrived the first night but those who did had a pleasant evening settling in and making preparations for the next day. After everyone unpacked we had a cook-out by

(SUCCESS - continued)

the motel swimming pool which overlooks the beach. Elaine S. had previously prepared some rather large hamburger patties and I had the distinct pleasure of cooking them. Everyone commented favorably on the results and since no one succumbed to food poisoning my first attempt at cooking hamburgers on an outdoor grill must have been successful. (If you are using your imagination properly your mouth should be watering by now.) The meal was completed by the addition of baked beans, chips, salad, etc. A real blowout!

After all the outdoor cooking was completed the group proceeded to the Hospitality Room to eat and celebrate Susan A's birthday. (Susan must have taken notes from the space shuttle because she's 39 and holding.) Susan's daughter presented her with a charming serpentine belt which she accepted with appropriate modesty in the grand style of Miss Piggy. It was really a gala affair complete with cake and trick candles. Everyone enjoyed it immensely.

Following the meal and party a drawing was held with Nadine as the winner of a compact umbrella, a perfect addition to her accessory collection. This was the first of a series of drawings to be held in conjunction with each evening's meal. The drawings were a nice touch and the prizes were well chosen and very tasteful.

A midnight stroll along the beach provided a fitting climax to the day's events for some of the guests. After unwinding from our journey everyone settled into the comfortable accommodations to rest up for the next day's events. And what an eventful day it was to be!

"Sleep tight Daytona, tomorrow's a big day!"

DAY TWO
12 NOVEMBER, 1981
Thursday

The day started with a bang: literally. After a pleasant night's sleep we rose refreshed and proceeded to the Hospitality Room for coffee and doughnuts, and to discuss plans for the day's activities. Several of the guests decided to go to Titusville to watch the space shuttle launch. (Wasn't it considerate of NASA to schedule their first success in

shuttle reuse launch in conjunction with our launching of the first of many Daytona Events?) It was a journey to be remembered. A large group of spectators had gathered for the launch but the area was not overcrowded and everyone was pleasant and friendly. In fact I had a very nice, lengthy chat with a local law enforcement officer who spent about 15 minutes talking about his home, his hobbies, etc. He was really a nice guy.

As the countdown neared completion you could feel the hushed anticipation of the crowd. When ignition and lift-off occurred we observed one of the most spectacular sights witnessed by mankind. Words cannot describe such an event. The ascent could be seen all the way to Daytona and was a perfect start to the first full day of the Daytona Event.

The remainder of the day was spent shopping and sightseeing around town. The merchants who had been specifically selected for our Event, Strawberry Fields, Ideal Beauty Shop, Wig Villa, Three Sisters, the Second Time Around Shop and Payless Shoes, provided a good starting place for our shopping sprees. The biggest problem with so many places to shop was that all of us didn't have time to visit each of them. The second biggest problem was not having enough money to go around. But, just looking was also fun and there were plenty of nice shops for "looking".

After the day's spending spree everyone returned to the motel to prepare for the evening's meal. By now most of the remaining guests had arrived so the Chapter was well represented at our first evening out. The restaurant for this evening was Riccardo's and it was fantastic. A special room had been set aside for our group and it was very tastefully prepared. The accommodations included a large table with all the trimmings and a well stocked salad bar. After a picture-taking session with friends and some of the restaurant staff we settled down to a fabulous meal, followed by an equally fabulous, and fattening, dessert.

Shannon, Bobbi W's charming wife, won a lovely new wallet in the after dinner drawing. With a little luck maybe Bobbi can find an extra job so Shannon will be able to properly line the inside of her prize. (You can take a few minutes off after Christmas, Bobbi.) In addition to the drawing, Susan G. presented Susan A.

(SUCCESS - continued)

and Elaine W. with gold plated lapel pins engraved with "Success '81". The pins were fitting gifts since Susan and Elaine had devoted so much effort to make this event a reality. With the evening now complete everyone headed out to prepare for the next day.

"Goodnight Datonya, see you again in the morning!"

DAY THREE
13 NOVEMBER, 1981
Friday

This didn't seem like Friday, but it was. And there was a lot more shopping to do. In addition to the shops previously mentioned there were several shopping centers available with lots of nice shops and courteous salespeople. It would have been easy to spend an entire vacation in the various shops trying on clothes, jewelry, shoes, wigs, accessories, etc., etc., etc. But eventually the daylight began to fade and it was time to prepare for the evening's meal.

The restaurant chosen for our second night out was the Beef & Bottle. Again the accommodations were fabulous, as was the meal. Dinner began with picture taking followed by a terrific salad bar and before dinner drinks. The main course was quickly and expertly prepared and served and fit for royalty. The restaurant staff really went out of their way to make this evening special. Following another fattening dessert the evening's drawing was held with Bea T. being the winner of a nice cosmetics purse. Just right for a pretty lady like Bea.

The evening's special event was the presentation of awards to distinguished Chapter members. (This is really gonna make you regret you weren't there.) Cathy G. received a degree from the "College of Calories" for her efforts to lose weight. Cathy already looks just fine, but she constantly strives for improvement. (Good luck Cathy; you'll probably be our next "10".) Susan G., Elaine S. and I were the recipients of pins with descriptive comments on them. Susan's said "I may not be perfect, but parts of me are excellent". (Talk about understatements.) Elaine's said "I don't get mad, I get even". (Don't tell anyone, but she's a pussycat.) Mine said "I'm perfect just the way

I am". (Thought they'd never notice.) The final award was a can of Jolly Time popcorn which went to your's truly. (I once made the comment that all I had time to cook at home was popcorn. It's funny how such an innocent remark can come back to haunt you).

The awards were special gifts from our special friends Susan and Shirley A. and nothing could have meant more than the thought behind these gifts. As mentioned earlier, Susan and Shirley treat Chapter members like family; that's one of the things that has made Success unique. (We love you Shirley and Susan. Thanks for everything.)

After dinner the group returned to the motel where a Nightie Party was held in the Hospitality Room. The guests gathered in the H-Room in their finest, and what finery it was. This is the kind of party where you can really get fancy and some of our group are real experts at getting fancy. (By now you should really be regretting that you didn't make it to Daytona.) Another drawing was held in conjunction with the Nightie Party. Bea T. won a photo album (twice in one night Bea? Where do you get your good luck charms?) and Bobbi W. won a pair of Tender Tips. (If you don't know what Tender Tips are you'll just have to come to Success '82 and find out).

While the Nightie Party continued some of the guests took advantage of the clear, moonlit night to see Daytona from a different angle. Janet B. (officially known as Pamela, Janette or P. J.) had flown a small airplane to Daytona and it was put to good use that evening giving Jane E., Cathy G. and myself a grand view of the glitter that is Daytona by night. The bright, sparkling neon lights were a perfect complement to the moonlight reflecting off the waves sweeping the silent beach. The whole scene was topped off by thousands of bright, clear stars that everyone visualizes as being perfect for lovers. And we had the world's best vantage point. (Those of you who are aviators can appreciate how beautiful the world looks from an airplane at night; and Daytona was especially beautiful this night).

After the flight we returned to the hotel to enjoy some late-night girl talk before retiring. After all, there was only one more full day remaining and we had to get our beauty sleep so we could

(SUCCESS - continued)
make the most of it.

"It's been a long day Daytona, but we'll be back after we get some rest."

DAY FOUR
14 NOVEMBER, 1981
Saturday

How could it be Saturday already? We've just gotten here! It was sad to think about, but our holiday is almost over and we haven't done nearly as much as we planned to do. In the time remaining we did our last minute shopping and began preparing for the trip home. To ease the pain of leaving our paradise, Susan and Shirley A. held an afternoon Punch Party in the Hospitality Room. The honor of mixing the punch fell to Carol E. And the way Carol mixed the punch so there was no more pain. She wouldn't tell anyone the formula, but the important thing was it was effective. (Carol, you got the job; you can be fulltime bar maid next year).

When the time arrived for the evening meal everyone was in "good spirits". It was a good thing too, because that evening's meal was a special treat at "Kay's Coach House". It was a perfect example of saving the best for last. What really made the meal special was the restaurant staff; especially a young man, Stacey, who was the hit of the evening and kept everyone entertained with his outgoing personality, witty comments and comic attitudes.

We were seated in a small, but cozy, room with some other patrons who were not members of our group and this led to a tense moment when Stacey accidentally slipped and asked why we were "in drag". He was quickly advised that some of us were NOT "in drag" and that led to a guessing game by the other guests and some of the staff. The guessing game was just the ice breaker needed and everyone soon joined us in what turned out to be the best evening we had in Daytona. We really look forward to seeing Stacey and the rest of the staff next year. Stacey has agreed to get "dressed" for the occasion and be our "waitress". (Stacey, you're a doll, don't ever change.)

As on previous evenings the accommodations and food were excellent. And, additionally, there was a well stocked

gift shop that contained some nice jewelry and other treasures. After dinner our final drawing was held. Cathy G. was awarded a compact with a lighted mirror in honor of having traveled the greatest distance, 800 miles, to attend the Event (She's really a far-out gal). P.J.'s prize was a purse sized hand mirror; just right for those times when a compact mirror is too small for touch-ups (P.J. is a lovely lady and now she can really see what everyone else is admiring).

In addition to the drawing Elaine S. was awarded a pair of pierced ear earrings as a reminder that her days among the "non-pierced" are numbered (We will get you yet, Elaine, so keep your ears handy).

(Perhaps some explanation is in order here. You see, Elaine likes to wear earrings, but is apprehensive of having her lobes pierced. We've been trying for a long time to get her somewhere where we can get it done; but so far she's managed to evade our efforts. Time's running out, Elaine.)

After dinner several of the guests went to a nearby gay club, the Landmark, presenting an impressive live show. Since management is concerned about their public image there were no hassles or hustles. The entertainment was presented in a most tasteful manner. After the show most of us returned to the motel to get ready for the return trip home and to get some rest.

"Good night for the last time Daytona, it will soon be time to go."

DAY FIVE
15 NOVEMBER, 1981
Sunday

This day was bittersweet! We all hated to realize the Event was over -- for this year -- but we had some very special memories. Checkout time was 10:00 a.m. so we all rushed to finish loading our cars and say our good-byes. So of us managed to prolong our stay by meeting at a nearby Denny's for a late breakfast, but even that had to end. By noon everyone had said their last farewells and had started the long trip home.

This was an experience that will remain forever special to those of us who were there.

(SUCCESS - continued)

Old friendships were strengthened and new ones were made. And already we were talking about a longer Event next year. So, start saving your pennies and make plans to attend "Success '82". We look forward to seeing you in the sun of our "winter".

"Good-bye Daytona, don't forget us. We won't forget you, and we'll be back even bigger and better next year."

CLOSING COMMENTS

An Event like the one at Daytona doesn't happen spontaneously; it requires the effort of dedicated people. Many of those people have already been mentioned, but before this article is complete some special mention should be made about the people who attended. In tribute to them it should be said that there were no minor players, only minor parts. All told there were 16 guests at Success '81. In addition to those already mentioned there was Barbara P. (one of our best dressed ladies), Edna H. (she's gotten out of her closet now; good show Edna) and Trudy Q. (a new face, but one we hope to see often).

Certainly not to be forgotten are the good people of Daytona Beach; especially the business people who opened their doors to us. Specific mention must be made about Beverly and Douglas Hon, managers of the Ocean Villa Motel where we stayed. Beverly and Douglas are fantastic people and deserve a special "Thanks" for their hospitality. They even went out of their way to attend some of our functions. We really appreciate your friendship, Beverly and Douglas. God bless you.

The Ocean Villa deserves some comment also; it's a clean modern motel with large, well furnished rooms and a courteous, friendly, efficient staff. A better location for Success '81 couldn't have been found anywhere.

Finally, special recognition should go to Susan and Shirley A., Elaine S. and Shannon and Bobbi W. who worked long, hard hours contacting various places in Daytona and making all the arrangements so the rest of us could have a great time. We can never thank them enough for such a job well done. Thanks, most of all to Susan and Shirley -- to Susan for having the Dream and making it come true

-- to Shirley for the special support you give Susan and the rest of us. As Star Trek's Mr. Spock would say: "Live long: and prosper."

NEXT YEAR!

The Success Chapter has experienced phenomenal growth in the past year, but even faster growth is anticipated in the future. There are, no doubt, a great many transvestites and transsexuals in the Southwest still in their closets. These people need help to get out of their closet and experience the kind of freedom and fulfillment other Success members have found. Our Chapter was founded to help "closet dwellers" by offering friendship and advice on the many aspects of being a successful TV/TS. Events, like "Success '81", are an expression of the success that can be achieved by people who have the courage to try new things.

The Daytona Event was a huge, but not the ultimate, success. Next year's Event will be bigger and better; especially if others join us. I hope this article has whetted your appetite for success; and that it will reach out to, and encourage others to join us at "Success '82", the biggest and best event ever.

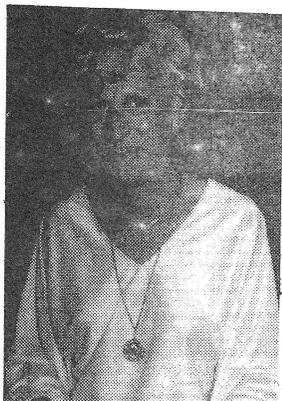
If you aren't yet a member, check us out. If you know someone, or of someone, who is not a member, tell them about us. In order to be a "Success" we need "U".

(Editor's Note. Success '81 was structured so the attendees would be free to come and go as they wished. The only "organized" portions of the Event were the dinners at the local restaurants and visits to night spots. Many of the "Weeks" or "Week-ends" sponsored by other organizations are structures so the attendees are rarely, if ever, out and about on their own. In essence, many other "Events" are simply the exchange of a closet at home for one away from home. We feel the unstructured type event, like Success '81, is more helpful to building the confidence necessary to members of the cross-gender community if they are to survive with their sanity intact.)

ANN KELLY, R.E.
Licensed Electrologist
499 Hamilton, #205
Palo Alto 94301
(415) 493-5036

DEAR DOCTOR MICHELLE
by
Michelle
Williams, M.D.

The advice provided in this column is given with the understanding that the inquirer and readers MUST consult their own physicians for medical attention.



(If you have any medical questions which may be related to your crossdressing or transsexual life style address them to Dear Doctor, c/o GGA, PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.)

Dear Doctor Michelle,

I need to know if castration can be done in the Phoenix AZ area. Also, if this surgery is completed what effect, if any, will it have on my sex change surgery that will be completed at a much later date (hopefully 1 to 2 years)? My objective is to completely eliminate any testosterone that is currently being produced in my body.

A MTF friend of mine who had her testicles removed -- accident inflicted, and seemingly a fortunate one -- developed beautiful breasts very quickly and after being on hormones about 3 months developed 36-C plus breasts.

I need to know if there is a doctor (surgeon) willing to do this pre-operative surgery in the Phoenix area. I plan my reassignment surgery in the next 1-2 years and want to develop to my fullest possible breast size or I may have to resort to expensive bust augmentation surgery.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Rebecca (AZ-16)

Dear Rebecca,

Castration can be done anywhere, however I would suggest that you consider a one-step procedure for your gender reassignment surgery. The 2 step procedure is being done less and less. When the procedure is done all at once, (the castration and the penile inversion to form the neo-vagina) the results are generally better and you may avoid having to have a skin graft. The reason for this

is the castration procedure can destroy some of the skin that is necessary for the penile inversion by leaving scar tissue. Your friend who had the accidental castration was probably fortunate that the hormones were able to develop her breasts. You don't say at what age the accidental removal of the testicles occurred. If it was done before adolescence the hormones would have had a much greater effect; however after adolescence removing the testicles does not have a great effect on the development of breasts with hormonal augmentation.

I do not, personally, know of a major gender reassignment center in the Phoenix (AZ) area. I would suggest, in your area, you consider the following three physicians:

Dr. Stanley Biber, Trinidad, Co., Dr. William Casey, Los Angeles, CA. and Dr. Donald Laub, Palo Alto, CA.

Doctors Biber and Casey do the penile inversion technique. And while Dr. Laub also does that technique he has, additionally, a technique where he re-implants a section of colon into the neo-vagina. (He refers to this latter technique as the "Rolls Royce Vagina".) All of these procedures may or may not require skin grafts depending on the amount of available tissue in the scrotal area.

One final mention on the breast augmentation surgery. Most MTF patients require breast augmentation. It is a rare or unusual patient who feels she gets enough breast development through hormone therapy alone, it is possible, but it is not the usual result of the hormones. Breast augmentation is among the best current plastic surgery techniques. It has a very, very high success rate, well over 95% and a very low serious complication rate. The operation in the last several years has become very cosmetic in that it is very difficult anymore to recognize them. I have even had difficulty myself in appreciating the fact that surgery had been done. The silicone sacs have an outer skin which is so well made these days it is really does feel like normal breast tissue.

Good luck with your planned operation.

Doctor Michelle

CHAPTER CHATTER!

WINDY CITY

Sharon

The meeting at the Light Factory on the 13th of January saw the largest attendance of the year with 16 hearty souls braving the cold, cold weather in Chi. The city busses may freeze, but not our staunch ladies. Six of the ladies arrived with cold, wet feet encased in snow covered, lovely open heels.

A lively and meaningful discussion of the Medical Insurance letter enclosed in the January Phoenix was one of the high points of the evening. The purse was passed and the resulting collection is on its way to Joanna Clark. (Thanks ladies, every little bit helps and keep those letters rolling in to Joanna.)

As a thank you to all and a welcome to the new attendees Sharon (IL-1) stood the group to a round of the grape -- as W.C Fields would say.

The Mardi Gras party (scheduled for February 22) is shaping up well. The Lite-Factory will present a couple of extra acts that night; there will be door prizes and a good time for all. So let's see all of you there that night -- and other meeting nights as well.

NU CHAPTER

Eileen

The January meeting of Northern New Jersey Chapter was held in Jane's Linden NJ home where 12 of us from NJ and NYC as well as two GG and a male friend of Jane's spent a lovely evening exchanging experiences, discussing feminine clothing, make-up and exchanging "helpful hints". The members attending who have just recently come out of the closet found much of the information most helpful and enlightening.

Thoughts and plans for future meetings were also discussed.

Jane served a lovely meal of roast turkey, vegetables, baked potatoes, bread and butter followed by coffee and apple pie for dessert. By the way, the guest charge for the food and incidental expenses, which collectively was considerable, was donated on behalf of all our sisters to a family whose house had burned down a couple of nights earlier.

Members started leaving about midnight at intervals well into the early morning and the bright looks and parting remarks

they made as they departed revealed their pleasure at and the success of the meeting. In fact a request was made by the visiting GGS to attend the next meeting since they had had such a lovely and enlightening time. They were, of course, assured they would be welcome at any of our meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in February, and we look forward to seeing all of you then.

PORTLAND

Ellen

Fifteen ladies attended the first meeting of this newest Chapter of the GGA. A lively and lovey evening was spent discussing the benefits of belonging to our Chapter and the National. Plans for future meetings were discussed and it looks as though our number will increase up here.

This is just a short report because of the deadline, but I'll provide more about future meetings. Look for a schedule of meetings in upcoming issues.

----- LATEX -----

Those of you "into" latex and seeking a reliable domestic source for these items may wish to contact Bizarre Fashions, by Renee Fashions Company, PO Box 2804, Hollywood, CA 90028. An illustrated catalog is available for \$3.00.

----- FREEBIES -----

Preowned wigs, lingere, etc. available from a private party going through a purge. Contact Franny Dowell, PO Box 62, Millbrea, CA, 94030. Please include a phone number so Franny can contact you and make arrangements for you to see the items and make you selections.

CALIFORNIA GG!

ATTRACTIVE White female, mid-30s would like to meet single hetero-TV for dating/relationship.

Easy-going, sensitive, intelligent, caring and sincere. Enjoy skiing, dining out, reading, walks along the beach and quiet evenings at home. Seeking a professional male with some similar characteristics. NO bi-sexuals or TSs please.

SF/South Bay Area

Write GGA, attn: CA-301, PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088



left to right
NADINE, BEA, SUSAN C. CAROL, ASTA



JEAN



NADINE



JANET, BOBBI, NADINE



BOBBI and SHANNON W.



BARB



NADINE

ASTA



left to right
NADINE, SUSIE, BOBBI, SHANNON, BARB



ELAINE



left to right
SUSIE, CAROL, BOBBI, SHANNON



left to right -- back row
NADINE, JEAN, BEA, SUSAN C., CATHY, ELAI...
top to bottom -- center row
JANET, BOBBI, CAROL, SUSAN C.
bottom row - left to right
SHIRL & SUSAN A.

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

A PERFECT VACATION SPOT ON THE OCEAN



Wish you were here? Attend Success '82 and you can be!

Success '81 was a successful fun-filled 4 day event!

Success '82 will be BIGGER and BETTER!!!

Sponsored by the Success Chapter of GGA, Success '82, will happen from October 24th thru 30th, 1982 at Daytona Beach, Florida.

Get out of your closet and have 7 fun-filled en-femme days living, playing, swimming, beach-walking, shopping, dinning out in public and much more.

Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to be yourself for 7 days.

For information write to:

*SUCCESS
PO BOX 1601
Pinellas Park, FL 33565*

OR

*SUCCESS
PO BOX 1631
Lake City, FL 32055-0905*

=====

Please send me information about Success '82.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY.....STATE.....ZIP.....

THE MOVIES

It is a rare event which presents us with the opportunity to praise the cast, writers, director, casting director and specifically an actor for the presentation concerning a crossdresser or a transsexual.

The made for television "Ambush Murders" presented recently on the CBS network did, however, provide us with opportunity to praise the Entertainment Industry for a truthful and moving presentation of a transsexual.

Admittedly, the character was relatively minor to the plot and probably could just as easily have been left out without adversely affecting the story line. All too often when a TS is gratuitously included in the story we see a less than accurate portrayal with less than realistic lines.

The character "Vanessa" was, however, an exception. In plain and simple words Vanessa, portrayed by Antonio Fargas, (sometimes seen in VEGA\$) stated the pains and fears so common to the TS, especially one who has been and may again be confined in a "correction facility" (a euphemism for the Slammer).

Antonio gave an excellent performance, with just enough male gestures and vocal sound to let the viewer know Vanessa was not a genetic female, but rather a physical male/psychological female intent on correcting the disparity between external appearance and mental image.

Congratulations, CBS, Antonio Fargas, and all the others associated with this excellent presentation. And thank you for a breath of much needed realism.

And thank you, Sharon (IL-1) for calling us to let us know about this show. Guess the time difference does pay off at times.

PEN PALS

Remember how alone you were when you had no one to contact? Why not sit down some evening when you're all dressed up with nowhere to go and drop a few lines to one of more of the Pen Pals listed below?

Reynaldo Ramirez, 89178 ASH-3 Angola, LA 70712

Michael Morgan, 147-338, Box 1691, London, OH 43140-0069

Mark Zuvich, Box 147 Unit #1, Fox Lake, WI 53933

LIBRA is a new feature of the Phoenix designed primarily as a two way avenue of information exchange for FTM transsexual, both the pre- and post-op, individuals in all stages of transition seeking and willing to share information. Printed information on nearly all aspects of transexuality is being prepared and will be available soon. To obtain a personal response to a specific question, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (4x9 1/2" size) to GGA, attn: LIBRA, POB 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. Anonymity is guaranteed.

The first letter received is from a female-to-male and is as follows:

"I need specific information regarding top surgery. Having seen some recent examples of this surgery done in the Peninsula Area (near San Francisco) I am not particularly pleased with the "state-of-the-art" currently exhibited by many of these patients. I plan to have this surgery in the Spring of '82; however if I find the "state" isn't improved by then I'll wait until I can find a surgeon who consistently produces good results and satisfied patients. Can you help?

Adam

Dear Adam,

We do not, as a matter of course recommend a surgeon. We do however provide a list of suggested surgeons. The surgeons are listed in the sequence in which they are ranked by past patients. Since the name at the top of the list is obviously the most popular it follows their clients feel they are THE BEST. That, of course, is a matter of opinion, and the best for one may not be the best for another. To help you get the specific information you requested we are throwing out a list of questions for other FTMs to answer. We will send you the answers privately and also publish them in this column. As a matter of information we are paraphrasing all of the questions and sending the list to surgeons, known to us, performing the FTM "top-surgery". If you have the name or names, and of course addresses, of surgeons performing this surgery we will appreciate it if you send the names to us for future reference. Please send names only of surgeons you feel do a reasonably good job. If you have seen the results of their work rank

(LIBRA - continued)

the surgeons as 1, 2, 3 etc.

We'll be back the next time we have either questions to answer or information to pass along. If you want to see us each month, send us questions and/or information.

Libra

---- QUESTIONS ----

1. Which doctors do the following:
the "keyhole"?
the "doughnut"?
the radical procedure?
2. Are you pleased/reasonably and realistically satisfied with your result?
3. Are your areola and nipple size genetic or thereabouts?
4. How much feeling do you have?
How long did it take for full feeling to return?
5. How is the contour?
6. Are there any tucks?
7. What is the scarring like?
8. Did your surgeon discuss post-op care with you?
9. Was the surgery done on an out-patient or in-hospital basis?
10. Did you have drainage tubes?
11. Were "Steri'Strips" used or recommended?

PITTSBURG CHAPTER
by Ratchel (PA-1)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Lately I have been getting a lot of flack and hearing a lot of strange reasons why the Pittsburgh Chapter ceased meeting temporarily. So, in the best interests of all I feel I should set the record straight.

The PGH Chapter hasn't died! It's just a matter of whether people want it to come together and attend meetings, or just hide in their closets dreaming of getting out and meeting others. In the short time I've been around I've seen chapters blossom and some wither away. A few just need some watering and tender loving care. The GGA didn't grow to what it is today overnight. It, too, started small and grew simply because it provides what the majority of the members want.

I realize some of you may be uncomfortable attending meetings in a Gay Center, but Gayness isn't going to rub

off on you and it certainly isn't contagious. They were gracious enough to offer the facility free and since we didn't, and still don't, have money in a Chapter Treasury, the price was right. Once we get on a good financial footing and have a minimum number attending regularly we can, if the membership wishes, move to another place. But most other meeting sites are going to cost money, which means each member will have to pay his/her share. By the way, the founding Chapter in San Francisco meets in their local Metropolitan Community Church much of the time.

I also realize some of you aren't comfortable attending meetings where TSs are present, and of course the reverse is true. Please remember, the membership of the National (GGA) is "open" and that means each Chapter must have a similar policy. (Transsexualism, like transvestism, isn't catching either.) We can, however, if the local membership so desires, according to information I have received from the National, hold separate meetings for the TVs and TSs. There are many subjects we could cover that are of common interest to both the TV and the TS, such as walking, vocal control, possibly electrolysis to mention a few and there certainly isn't any reason why we shouldn't have a combined meeting when subjects of mutual interest are presented. It would certainly be better than having the same presentation twice -- once for each lifestyle.

I hope this Open Letter will be the seed for thought and get you out to help the PGH Chapter grow into the GGA's most active Chapter. Any of you wishing to "get something going" again may contact me through Post Office Box 16080, Pittsburgh, PA 15242.

(Editor's Note: In addition to the PGH Chapter the PI Chapter, formerly part of the Tri-S organization is now a Chapter of GGA and should also be soon functioning again. For those interested in contacting the PI Chapter you may do so by dropping a line to Patricia McDermott, PO Box 576, Export PA 15623. We hope the leaders of these two Chapters will work together since they have a common purpose and possibly merge the two Chapters into a single entity functioning for the benefit of the members in the area.)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

(COMING ATTRACTIONS - continued)

In this regular feature we list the meetings of various groups and special functions known to be scheduled. If your group wishes a FREE announcement in the PM-I, send it to: The GGA, Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA, 94088. Copy deadline is the 1st Monday of the month preceding the issue of the PM-I in which the announcement is to appear.

**** NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ****

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

Meeting time at each location: 8 PM.

SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Wednesday.*

SAN JOSE: 1st & 3rd Friday.*

*A donation of \$2.00 requested!

Write PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for information on specific meeting locations.

OTHER GROUPS

PACIFIC CENTER, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap sessions. Last Friday, special topic or great speaker. Meeting time: 7:30 'til 10:00pm

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday (\$3.00 donation is requested). For specific information write PO Box 26227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY of JANUS. For those "into" or seeking adventure in S&M. For information concerning meetings and events write PO Box 6794, San Francisco, 94101.

**** SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ****

SALMACIS: Unstructured social get-together on the second Saturday of each month. 7:30 pm. Contact Lynn or Ann (213) 241-9093.

SHANGRI-LA: (Scyros Chapter). First Saturday each month, 5-11 pm. Contact Nancy (714) 834-0928 for information.

SHANGRI-LA: Main Office. Nancy Watson, PO Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713.

MISSION VIEJO AREA: Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Informational brochure "For the Record" - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, 31815 Camion Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Group counseling: Dana Point facility on the 2nd & 4th Mondays; San Juan Capistrano facility 1st and 3rd Mondays.

SAN DIEGO AREA. Contact W Thomas, Post Office Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109 for information on meeting times, dates and place.

**** COLORADO ****

TV/TS GROUP: Meeting every Monday, 8 pm. Members begin assembling about 7:30 so often no seats are left, so early arrival is suggested. Programs of primary interest to crossdressers are presented on even dated Mondays; programs of primary interest to persons in transition are presented on alternate Mondays. Location: corner of 11th Avenue and Filmore, Cherry Creek Area of southwest Denver. Call (303) 830-7353 for specific information. March -- Spring Clothing: fun and cheap.

Colorado legislator; state and local laws; police position; insurance companies positions. What are our chances on the local level to change what we don't like?

**** CONNECTICUT ****

XX-CLUB. Primarily a TS Support Group. Contact Rev. Clinton Jones, 45 Church St, Hartford, 09103 for information.

HARRIET LANE'S "The TV Set". Private facilities. Parties 2nd & 4th Saturday. Contact Harriet Lane, Post Office Box 2, Yalesville Station, Wallingford 06402 or call (203) 288-1166 for party information.

**** DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ****

DELTA CHI CHAPTER (GGA): Sandy Machin, Post Office Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER (GGA) (Balt-DC Area): Lisa Rouse, Post Office Box 218, Burtonsville, MD 20703.

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag-gay): Carl Rizzi 1015 S. Quebec St (#9), Arlington, VA 22204.

**** FLORIDA ****

SUCCESS CHAPTER (GGA) Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each odd numbered month. Contact Susan Armstrong, PO Box 1601, Pinellas Park, 33565.

PARTIES: Contact: Fantasies in Lace, PO Box 100279, Ft. Lauderdale 33310.

**** ILLINOIS ****

WINDY CITY CHAPTER of GGA.

Meeting schedule:

April 14th May 26th June 30th

Meeting time 7:30. Contact (312) 472-4518 for the location.

CHI CHAPTER (Tri-S).

Donna Martin, Post Office Box 218, Markham, IL 60446

(COMING ATTRACTIONS - continued)

**** MASSACHUSETTS ****

BOSTON AREA

TIFFANY CLUB: Tuesdays & Saturdays, 7-11 pm. Very attractive private facilities with overnights. GGA members welcome. Write Tiffany Club, PO Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) 358-5575.

KAY-MAYFLOWER SOCIETY: Every Wednesday, 7-11 pm. For information call (617) 254-7389.

CAPE COD AREA

TS SUPPORT GROUP: Contact Rachia Heyelman, PO Box 25, S. Orleans, 02662 for information.

**** MICHIGAN ****

CROSSROADS: Irregular schedule. Following meeting date has been established:

March 20, 1982 in Ann Arbor

April 17, 1982 location not set

If you need additional information send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Grace Bacon, PO Box 3013, Flint, 48502.

**** NEW JERSEY ****

NU CHAPTER (GGA) (Northern NJ):

J. Mally, 29 Franklin Place, Morristown, NJ 07960. No meeting schedule set, but watch these pages for future announcements.

**** NEW YORK AREA ****

GGA CHAPTER, NEW YORK CITY

Muriel Olive, 157 W. 57th St., Suite 601, NYC, 10019. Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month. A facility for changing is available for those members needing it. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 but the meetings start at 7:00 and run 'til 11:30ish. The building is locked at midnight (so like Cinderella we must be out by then).

TV PARTIES: Contact Joyce Dewhurst, 27-50 76th Street, Jackson Heights, 11372 or call (212) 335-3048.

ALBANY-TVIC. Meeting every 3rd Saturday. Contact Wm. Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany 12200 for specific information.

**** OHIO ****

PARADISE CLUB. (Akron Area) Contact: Patricia L. McDermott, PO Box 576, Export, PA, 15632. Since reservations are required because meetings are held in rented facilities and often a motel room is required for an overnight stay so please contact the above address for reservation forms.

(COMING ATTRACTIONS - continued)

**** OREGON (OR) ****

NORTHWEST CHAPTER (GGA). Regular monthly meetings. Contact PO Box 230172, Tigard Station, Portland OR 97223 for information.

NORTHWEST COORDINATOR. For information concerning activities in the NW Area contact Olivia Perel, PO Box 13173, Portland OR 97213

**** PENNSYLVANIA ****

PI CHAPTER (GGA) (Pittsburgh Area)

Contact Patricia L. McDermott, PO Box 576, Export, 15632.

PGH CHAPTER (GGA) (Pittsburgh Area)

Contact Ratchel Osman, PO Box 16080, Pittsburgh, PA 16080.

PHI CHAPTER (GGA) (Philadelphia Area.)

Contact Michelle Williams, PO Box 322, Cullingswood, 08108.

**** RHODE ISLAND ****

HALCYON SOCIETY (Tiffany Club R.I.)

Meeting 1st Saturday each month - 7pm. Contact: Occupant, PO Box 143, N. Kingstons, RI 02852. Call (617) 678-0609.

**** TEXAS ****

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, GGA. Galveston. Contact Alice (713) 763-6227 for information.

**** VIRGINIA ****

NU RHO CHAPTER (Tri-S) (Norfolk-Virginia Beach Area) N. Cooper, S-180, P.O. Box 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452

**** WISCONSIN ****

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Contact Post Office Box 813, Madison, 53701. (TV Only).

**** CANADA ****

WINNIPEG CHAPTER (GGA). Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Contact Linda T. O'Connell, 710 504 Main St., Winnipeg R3B 1B8 or call (204) 947-1774 for time and place.

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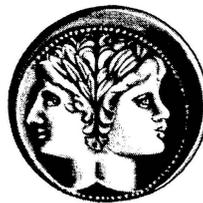
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PROVIDE REFERRAL SERVICES FOR THE VARIOUS GENDER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WITH WHOM/WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION IS IN CONTACT.

ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AMONG THE LEADERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE VARIOUS EXISTING OR FUTURE GENDER DYSPHORIC GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS.

DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO ASSIST IN THE EDUCATION OF THE GENDER DYSPHORIC IN DEALING WITH HIS/HER LIFESTYLE CHALLENGES AND ASSIST THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ACCEPTING THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL AS A PERSON.

PROVIDE A PUBLICATION CONTAINING ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL AND COUNSELORS.

PROVIDE THOSE MEMBERS DESIRING IT A LIST OF PSYCHOTHERAPISTS COUNSELING IN THE GENDER DYSPHORIC FIELD.

PROVIDE A LISTING OR REGISTER OF ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST IN LOCAL OR ACCESSIBLE AREAS TO THE INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITH THIS ORGANIZATION.

ADVERTISE TO ATTRACT UNDECLARED GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUALS WITHIN OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

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